

## Safe Mobility for Life Program



- ★ 1990: FDOT's Elder Road User Program
  - ★ State Traffic Engineering & Operations Office
  - ★ Implemented roadway improvements to help compensate for age-related changes
- ★ 2004: FDOT's Safe Mobility for Life Program
  - ★ Expanded program and partnerships to help reduce crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries for aging road users

Before explaining what we do now, it is important to get a little history and understand where we have been and why we adapted our FDOT statewide aging driver program

Note on improvements shown in these pictures:

Pavement markings were widened from 4 to 6 inches;

Reflective pavement markings went from 80 foot to 40 foot spacings

Started using Advanced Street Name signs to provide advance notification

Pedestrian treatments such as refuge islands and high emphasis crosswalks

What was our catalyst for change? The projections to the aging population that Laura mentioned. The fact that 1 in 4 drivers would be over the age of 65, we need to shift our focus from the roadway, to communities.

# An Aging Road User

☀ Someone who is a driver, passenger, pedestrian, bicyclist, transit-rider, motorcyclist, or operator of a non-motorized vehicle who is 50 years of age or older, with a special focus on the 65 year and older age group



## What is an aging road user?

Florida defines an aging road user in Florida so we have a clear understanding of our target audience as we move forward with the presentation.

Read definition from slide.

*Sometimes people are uncomfortable with us saying it starts at 50...but we are doing this in order to try and change behavior before they become 65 years old.*



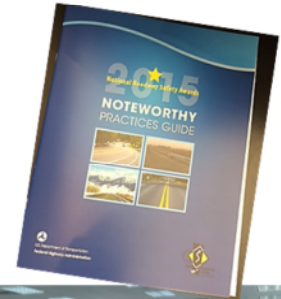
Florida's current 65+ population is over 18 percent and to put that in perspective, that is what the national average will be in 2030...while Florida 65+ population will be over 25 percent, and approximately 1 in 4 drivers will be over the age of 65.

In 2009, to keep up with changes to this population and to think more broadly in addressing safety and mobility for our aging population...the Florida Department of Transportation partnered with FSU's Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy to form a statewide coalition to address the safety and mobility needs of our aging population. Our Coalition currently has 28 member organizations and representatives from each FDOT district and various offices within our Central Office. Our group is very diverse, but so is the issue of aging road user safety and mobility.

## Coalition's Approach

- ★ Balance safety and mobility needs of our growing aging population.
- ★ Promoting a positive and empowering message: *"You hold the keys to your transportation future."*
- ★ **Vision:** Work together to implement a strategic plan that increases the safety, access, and mobility for aging road users to eliminate fatalities and reduce serious injuries.

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Our Coalition member organizations and the members that represented them are committed to balancing the safety and mobility needs of Florida's aging population and we are doing it by promoting a positive and empowering approach to this very broad issue.

Last year our Coalition won the National Roadway Safety Award for Program Planning and Development on our approach to improving safety for aging road users.

Working together we are developing resources based on a comprehensive Aging Road User Strategic Safety Plan that has an overall goal of reducing crashes for our aging road users by improving their improve the safety, access, and mobility.

## Aligning Strategic Plans

★ Florida's Transportation Plan



★ Florida's Strategic Highway Safety Plan



★ Florida's Aging Road User Strategic Safety Plan



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Plans align and we will be working on an update to our Aging Road User Strategic Safety Plan starting in January 2017.



# Florida's Aging Road User Strategic Safety Plan

- ★ Comprehensive plan with goals and objectives to help all stakeholders in 6 key areas:
  - ★ Program Management, Data & Evaluation
  - ★ Aging in Place
  - ★ Licensing & Enforcement
  - ★ Outreach & Advocacy
  - ★ Prevention & Assessment
  - ★ Transitioning from Driving
- ★ Data-driven and evaluation based plan.



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As mentioned earlier, Florida's Aging Road User Strategic Safety Plan is comprehensive and contains six separate emphasis areas (*Program Management, Data, and Evaluation, Aging in Place, Licensing and Enforcement, Outreach and Advocacy, Prevention and Assessment and Transitioning from Driving*).

Each emphasis area has their own goals, objectives and strategies to support all stakeholders (law enforcement, health care professionals, aging service providers, families/caregivers, local governments, engineers/planners, and older adults). All stakeholders play an important role and responsibilities to achieve safe mobility for life.

We ensure that we have a data driven and evaluation plan for all the resources we develop or distribute.



## Outreach and Education



Outreach and education is important and as a coalition we do a lot  
 Make sure you mention CarFit and it is a great example of local partnerships  
 Florida is number 1 in the nation in conducting CarFit in addition to our sunny weather, it  
 could be because we use 402 safety grant funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety  
 Administration to conduct events throughout the state.

## Educational Materials for all Stakeholders



Some other materials we currently have:

Brochure to promote safe golf cart use

Tip card to educate both pedestrians and drivers on parking lot safety

- This tip card was based on our human factors research project that we did to gain a better understanding of the crashes that were occurring in parking lots for older adults. We collaborating with the Alert Today Ped/Bike Coalition to develop and distribute.

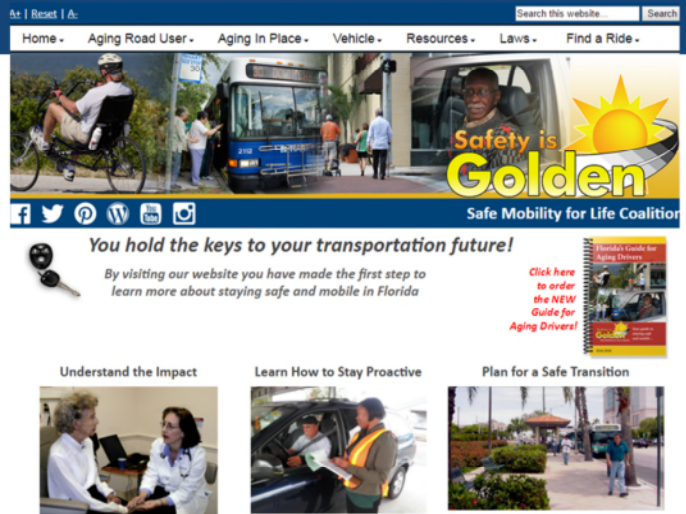
What we are working on:

Tip cards specifically designed to educate older adults on the use of traffic control devices. This is another human factors research project we have with FSU, Department of Psychology. We will release new tip cards for Roundabouts as well as guidance on Turning Right on Red when project is complete (early next year).



# FLsams.org

- ★ One stop shop to promote and share resources on the keys to staying safe and mobile.
- ★ Resources to help all stakeholders.



[www.FLsams.org](http://www.FLsams.org)

Important to make the resources available to all stakeholders on the internet:

Promotes our positive message: You Hold the Keys to Your Transportation Future and has direct access to the resources to help improve the safety, access, and mobility for Florida's aging road users.

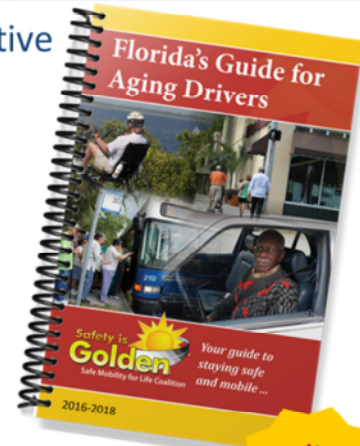
Website was developed and maintained by FDOT in Traffic Ops

Resources tab: provides information for stakeholders (Law Enforcement, Health Care Providers, Families/Caregivers)

# Florida's Guide for Aging Drivers

- ★ Targeted for drivers (50+) to help them stay proactive about their driving
- ★ Written in consumer-friendly language
- ★ Help educate on:
  - ★ The impact of aging on skills needed for safe driving
  - ★ Importance of planning for life after driving
  - ★ Access to local resources
- ★ Available in English and Spanish

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Also  
available  
in Español

Print based resources...this is important and still needed to help educate older adults.